

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more particularly emphasize the nature of the invention, that is, that it is a distributed audio system which has an amplifier and which also includes a switching regulator in order to ensure that variable PC electrical input from a power supply is output from the switching regulator to the switching amplifier at a substantially constant voltage. This system may or may not be used with a vehicle. As explained below, the amendments here made are to emphasize the above features which clearly distinguish the art used by the Examiner in this initial rejection.

Claims 1-2, 4 were rejected as anticipated by Kemmerer et al. (US 2003/0123678A1). The rejection is traversed.

Importantly, the purpose of Kemmerer is completely different purpose to that of the current invention, as defined by the amended claims. As set out in paragraph 12 of the published Kemmerer, it is an object to provide a vehicle audio system in which it is possible to adjust various compensation functions upon connecting the system to a power source, while preventing the power being supplied to the entire system during the adjustment. Thus, he teaches two modes of operation, a first mode of operation in which the system can be "set up" upon installation, with the "setting up" being undertaken in relation to a specific vehicle in which the apparatus has been installed. In order to allow this "set up" to occur safely, to prevent damage to components and/or a person in the vehicle, the power is supplied only to an adjustment circuit and the display. In the second mode of operation, in which the apparatus is fully usable, the power is supplied to the entire power amplifier.

In contrast, in the present invention, the aim is to ensure that there is provided a distributed audio system (which may or may not be in a vehicle) which has an amplifier and which also includes a switching regulator in order to ensure that the variable DC electric input from a power supply is

output from the switching regulator to the switching amplifier at a substantially constant voltage. This is emphasized in the amended claims. This also means that the problems associated with using standard, small gauge signal conductors over differing distances, within the system, are overcome. Thus, the inventions of the current application and that of the prior art, are completely different, have different purposes and different solutions. Kemmerer does not teach the limits of the amended claims 1, 2 and 4, and therefore, does not anticipate.

The claims have been amended to more clearly illustrate the differential between the current invention and the prior art in a non-obvious manner. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the distributed audio system includes at least one speaker, a power supply, and, intermediate said power supply and at least one speaker, there is provided an amplifier arrangement. Furthermore, the claims have been amended to indicate that the distributed audio system is configured so that the power supply is connected to a plurality of amplifier arrangements via respective electrical cables. This allows the common power supply to be used with a plurality of amplifier arrangements, with each of the amplifier arrangements being located remotely from the power supply so as to allow control of audio reproduction means in different areas, such as for example, different rooms of a building. This differentiates the invention from Kemmerer in that he is provided for use in a vehicle, i.e. in one confined area or zone.

The secondary references do not teach the missing elements of Kemmerer, and therefore even when combined with Kemmerer, do not make obvious the amended claims which teach a different combination of elements to provide a different result, which even under KSR, is acknowledged as properly patentable non-obvious subject matter.

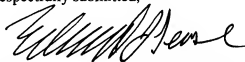
This is a request to extend the period for filing a response in the above-identified application for three months from September 10, 2008 to December 10, 2008. Applicant is a small entity;

therefore, please charge Deposit Account number 26-0084 in the amount of \$555.00 to cover the cost of the three months extension. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account 26-0084.

No other fees or extensions of time are believed to be due in connection with this amendment; however, consider this a request for any extension inadvertently omitted, and charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 26-0084.

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edmund J. Sease', is written over the typed name.

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